

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

befalls you because you love that part which I have received from you, that is, your flesh with which you clothed me, more than that which I have received from God. Raise, O raise your heart and affection to that sweet and most holy Cross, where every burden becomes light; be willing to bear a little finite pain, to escape the infinite pain which we deserve for our sins. Now take comfort, for the love of Christ crucified ; and do not think yourself abandoned, either by God or by me. Nay, you will be consoled and will receive full consolation ; your sorrow has not been so great, but that the joy will be greater. We shall soon come, by the grace of God."¹

Early in November, Catherine and her company left Genoa by sea. After narrowly escaping shipwreck on the way, they kneded at Livorno and went on thence to Pisa, where Lapa, Fra Tommaso della Fonte, and others met them. From Pisa, Catherine sent Stefano to Siena, with letters and messages, to prepare the way for their return ;² and, probably about the middle of December, she found herself once more in her native city.

In the meanwhile, Gregory had proceeded on his way, tossed by storms at sea and assailed by sinister rumours wherever he touched shore. At Livorno, which he reached on November 10, he was received by Piero Gambacorti and his sons, who, together with the ambassadors of Lucca, again besought him to make peace with the Florentines. But the Pope would not listen to a word on the subject, but ordered fresh processes to be published against them. A fearful tempest arose and scattered the fleet; the galleys of the Cardinals of Amiens and Glandeves sank, but their lives were saved; the greater part of the ships got to Port' Ercole. Gregory himself with six galleys was driven to the island of Elba, from which he despatched a letter to the cardinals, ^c bidding them take heart, for these tempests which he had suffered

¹ Letter 240 (169).

² Two letters from Stefano at Siena to Neri at Pisa (" al luogo de' frati di San Domenico, o vero di Santa Caterina"), dated November 29 and December 8, 1376, are published by GrottanelH in the *Lettere dei dtscefoli*, 5 and 6, full of little playful touches.